Alberta Finance
Economic Bulletin

ECONOMIC STATISTICS RELEASED DURING THE WEEK OF APRIL 6, 2001 TO April 12, 2001

	Reference Period	Month/Previous Month (m/m)	Month/Previous Year's Month (y/y)	Comments
New Housing Price Index	February			New housing prices in Canada rose a strong 2.4% on a year-over-year basis, and 0.3% from the previous month. Ottawa-Hull (14.2%) recorded highest increase from February 2000, followed by Montreal (5.5%), Halifax (3.5%), and Kitchener-Waterloo (3.0%). By comparison, Calgary and Edmonton recorded more modest increases at 1.8% and 1.0% respectively. Declines were experienced in Saint John-Moncton-Fredericton (-1.7%), Sudbury-Thunder Bay (-1.6%), and Windsor (-0.3%)
Canada	104.9	0.3%	2.4%	
Edmonton	112.5	0.2%	1.0%	
Calgary	133.6	0.1%	1.8%	
(1992=100)				
U.S. Retail Sales	March			The U.S. retail sales, which comprise 2/3 of the American economy, declined 0.2% between February and March, contrary to expectations of stillness. Weak equity market performance, high energy prices, and increasingly frequent layoff announcements have eroded consumer confidence. The decline was led by weak durable good sales which declined 0.7%. Between March 2001 and March 2000, retail sales increased by 1.9%.
*Billion $U.S.	$274.1*	-0.2%	1.9%	
Year to Date			3.1%	
Urban Housing Starts (thousands)	March			In March, housing starts declined in every province from the previous month except Prince Edward Island (100.0%), Saskatchewan (23.1%), Alberta (10.7%), and Ontario (7.5%). The largest declines were recorded in Nova Scotia (-63.6%), Newfoundland (-50.0%), New Brunswick (-33.3%), and Quebec (-18.4%). Between January and March 2001, housing starts increased in both Canada (3.0%) and Alberta (7.7%) compared to the same period year before.
Alberta[1]	20.7	10.7%	1.5%	
Canada[2]	134.7	-1.7%	-3.2%	
Year to date			7.7%[1] 3.0%[2]	